

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Montgomery, Ethel M., 1896-1989**  
**Ethel M. (Clayton) Montgomery Papers, 1934-1989**  
**MS 136**

12 manuscript boxes  
6.25 linear ft.  
9 additional boxes:  
clippings and publications

Processed by: Gladi Kulp, Sept.-Dec. 1993  
Processed by: Kathryn Shelton  
Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann

**Acquisition:** Ethel Montgomery's collection of Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. (ANAC) business records and personal memorabilia was donated to the Library by daughter, Jean C. Berg, in 1989-1990 (Acc. # 89-5, 89-33, 90-2, 2010-044).

**Access:** The collection is unrestricted.

**Copyright:** Request for permission to publish material from the collection should be discussed with the librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

**Processing:** The collection was received unorganized except for some subject file arrangement. Whenever possible original order was maintained. File names or titles designated by Montgomery are enclosed in single quotation marks. Outgoing correspondence is arranged chronologically, incoming correspondence, alphabetically. Routine financial records were retained because of names contained therein. Papers are usually described to the folder level although contents of folders are sometimes listed. ANAC publications and others, mostly on Alaska Natives or Alaska Native artisans,

were added to the Alaska State Library's Historical Collections. Duplicate items were discarded or offered to other institutions. Separation sheets were placed in files where original order would be affected by removal of the items. Conservation included removal of acid-based fasteners and containment of fragile papers in mylar envelopes. As an ongoing project, clippings of Alaska Natives will be listed and cited (w/hl/ms/anacname.doc). Photographs form a separate collection, PCA 348, with the exception of 16 photographs in Box 4, folder 4, personal correspondence. See also MS136-3-23 Artists business records, and ANAC names & citations clippings.

MS136-3-23 Artists business records can be found at:

[http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist\\_docs/finding\\_aids/MS136-3-23 artists bus records.pdf](http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS136-3-23_artists_bus_records.pdf)

ANAC names & citations clippings can be found at:

[http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist\\_docs/finding\\_aids/MS136Anacname.pdf](http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/MS136Anacname.pdf)

## PROCESSING NOTES

Box 4, Folder 8: craft lore, stories, and particulars were contained both in Docent files and ANAC files. Duplicates from this file, Box 4, Folders 8-13, were removed. Items are retained in Box 3, Folder 2.

Box 4, Folder 6: "Shank, Ship & Shutter Club" publications and badges were transferred to MS 130

Box 4, Folder 17: letter from Myrt, Ted, and Gene, Feb. 11, 1952, moved to: correspondence file, Box 4, Folder 3.

San Chat, May 1956, placed in Historical Collections.

Box 4, Folder 17a: correspondence undated

Box 3, Folder 20: correspondence moved from Box 3, Folders 19-20 to: Correspondence folders, Box 1, Folders 1-3.

Boxes 1-9 Addition been described and are housed on AJ stack 90.

Incoming correspondence of note:

Davis, J. Edward 11/13/58

Keithahn, Edward L.	4/21/39
Petty, Ethel	4/26/39
Rock, Howard	2/14/40
Thomas, Dell W.	8/4/38; 4/20/39
Zimmerman, William Jr.	4/12/39

## Outgoing correspondence of note:

Burrus, Don	10/21/58
Hawkesworth, Charles W.	4/16/34; 2/28/40

**BIOGRAPHICAL/ HISTORICAL NOTE**

Ethel M. (Clayton) Montgomery, collector and promoter of Native arts and crafts, docent, and well-known Juneau hostess, was born on March 12, 1896 in northeastern Nebraska, Montgomery graduated from Wayne State Normal. She taught elementary school in Nebraska and married Ivil J. Montgomery in 1917. The Montgomerys had three children -- Jean, Chloe, and Neil C. After they arrived in Juneau, Alaska in 1949, Ethel Montgomery actively promoted the sale of products, handmade by Native artisans, through the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearinghouse, later renamed the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., known from its inception as ANAC. Montgomery was advisor and volunteer at the ANAC Cache, an outlet for Native arts and crafts in Juneau. She was a well-known docent at the Alaska State Museum and led local tours for local groups such as the Juneau Chamber of Congress. Montgomery remained active until her death on January 31, 1989, in Juneau.

**ETHEL M. (CLAYTON) MONTGOMERY****Biographical timeline**

1896	Born in northeastern Nebraska as Ethel M. Clayton, March 12
1916-1917?	Graduate of Wayne State Normal, taught elementary school Volunteer work of various kinds, including Red Cross hospital, in Nebraska and Massachusetts
1917	Married Ivil James Montgomery in Nebraska. Children: Jean, Chloe and Neil
1917-1948?	Husband, Ph.D., University of Nebraska, 1941

	Husband, Superintendent of Schools, Wilber/Blair, Nebraska Husband, Director of Merit System of Nebraska
1949-196?	Arrived in Juneau, Alaska, with husband, from Lincoln, Nebraska, July Husband, first Director of Merit System for the Territory of Alaska, until statehood. Husband, Director of Certification for the Alaska Department of Education until retirement
1949-1950's	Volunteer in the Government Hospital; visits patients' relatives in cities and villages
1968	Husband died, May 9 in Juneau
1949?-1961	Volunteer and advisor for Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative
1961-1975?	Manager of ANAC Cache
1949-1989	Tour guide at the Alaska State Museum, beginning when Edward Keithahn was director (top floor of the Old Federal Building now State Capitol Building) Co-organizer of the Shank, Ship and Shutter Club Active with husband in Juneau Methodist Church, later Northern Light Church Active in Salvation Army (board member) Member for 50 years of PEO and Eastern Star Member of Daughters of the American Revolution Member of Igloo #6 Alaska Pioneers Member of American Legion Auxiliary
1971	Woman of the Year, Juneau Rotary Club
1984	Adopted by Jennie Thlunaut into the Kaagwaan Taan Wolf Clan of the Eagle Tribe (Tlingit) in Haines; given Tlingit name Naats Klaa
1984	Awarded Citizen's Choice Beautification by Juneau, for her home, "Heen Ku Hit," and its grounds, covered by native plants
1984?-1989	Elected chaplain of the Yin Waashaa, Kaagwaan Taan Women's Society

- 1985 Received Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor Bill Sheffield
- 1986 Celebration of 90th birthday, by Friends of the Museum, Alaska State Museum, Monday, March 3  
Celebration of 90th birthday by her family, hosted by her daughter, Jean Berg, in Seattle, March 9
- 1988 State Legislature recognized her long-term community service
- 1989 Died, January 31 in Juneau

**Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc.  
Organizational History**

- 1937-1938 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), a federal agency, set up the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House (ANAC) in Juneau  
Arts and Crafts Division set up by Alaska Native Service (ANS), a branch of the BIA.  
BIA superintendent Claude M. Hirst appointed Virgil Farrell, a Nome BIA teacher, as the first supervisor of the native arts and crafts clearing house.
- 1939 Government trademark issued for Alaskan native products to guarantee authenticity
- 1940 BIA appointed Virgil Farrell superintendent of the ANS  
BIA appointed Harvey Starling, Kotzebue BIA teacher, Supervisor of Arts and Crafts
- 1944 BIA assigned Harvey Starling to the newly-established position of Arts and Crafts Manager  
Don C. Foster, ANS superintendent, at the recommendation of Harvey Starling, appointed Don Burrus as an assistant and general manager of ANAC and added some of Harvey Starling's previous duties to his own
- 1945 Harvey Starling was transferred Supervisor of Arts to the Education Division as Supervisor of Education for the ANS

- 1947            Responsibility for ANAC was redesignated from the Education Division of ANS to the Native Resources Division
- 1949            Adopted ANAC trademark
- 1950            Eliminated 2% service charge on merchandise and implemented conventional retail mark-up policy
- 1952            ANAC became self-supporting
- 1956            April 23, the ANAC severed its ties to government and became a private, cooperatively-owned, self-supporting, nonprofit corporation under the Laws of the Territory of Alaska; the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House (ANAC) became Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative Association, Inc., (still known as ANAC)
- 1958            Direct mail, common during the early years, was publicized and increased to combat the influx of fraudulent misrepresentations and imitations appearing in retail outlets
- 1961            ANAC Cache, retail shop in Juneau, opened under the management of Ethel Montgomery  
ANAC received loan from BIA; discontinued consignment policy and began to purchase directly from members
- 1968            Alaska State Legislature introduced Bill No. 535 to create the Alaska Native Crafts Corporation to promote and market Alaska native crafts
- 1972-1973      Moved general operations to Anchorage; ANAC Cache continued to operate in Juneau
- 1974            Constructed warehouse which served as office headquarters and wholesale outlet, and opened retail gallery in downtown Anchorage
- 1975            ANAC Cache in Juneau and Anchorage warehouse were sold; wholesale and retail operations were consolidated in a single gallery space in downtown Anchorage

1984                      Corporate structure changed from Alaska Native Arts and Crafts  
Cooperative Association, Inc., to ANAC Association, Inc.

[Time line was constructed from Ethel Montgomery's notes, the recollections of Don Burrus, former manager of ANAC, and *Guide to the Historical Records of the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearing House* by Christina F. Kreps.]

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES

The Ethel Montgomery Collection, circa 1934 to 1989, is arranged in four series:

I. ANAC Files. II. Personal Papers. III. Clippings and publications. IV. Photographs (PCA 348). The ANAC files include correspondence, administrative and business records, newspaper clippings, personnel information, biographical information on artisans, catalogs, price lists, publications, advertising, and crafts catalogs from other outlets. Ethel Montgomery's personal papers consist of correspondence, docent files, phonograph records, song books, song sheets, and memorabilia -- such as guest books, invitations, announcements, programs, playbills and scripts. The photographs collection includes black-and-white and color photographs, slides, illustrations, and graphics from ANAC and Montgomery's personal papers.

## INVENTORY

### **Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc. (ANAC)    (Boxes 1-3; 8-12)**

#### **Box 1**

##### **Correspondence:    Folders 1-10**

Folders: 1-3. Correspondence, received, arranged alphabetically by correspondent  
4-6. Correspondence sent, arranged chronologically  
7.    Memos, trip report  
8.    Communication to artisans  
9.    Communication to retailers  
10.   Communication to purchasers, collectors

##### **History, organization, and governance:                      Folders 11-12**

Folder 11.    History and organization

## 12. Board of directors

**Administration: Folders 13-16**

- Folder: 13. Personnel  
14. Village agreements  
15. Certifications  
16. Reports

**Business Records: Folders 17-24**

- Folder: 17. Forms  
18. Samples  
19. Invoices: various artisans (Savoonga), Roy Hendricks (Anchorage), Stanley Kavrilak (Tununak)  
20. Speed letters: various artisans  
21. Purchase orders: U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
22. Purchase orders, statements, correspondence: George Ahgupuk (Anchorage)  
23. Purchase orders, statements, correspondence: Robert Mayokok (Anchorage)  
24. Telephone list, "Alaska Cities Zoned From Juneau Post Office" (2)

**Box 2****Business Records (cont.): Folders 1-13**

- Folder: 1. List of signatures for receipt of checks  
2. ANAC ad copy  
3. ANAC ad samples  
4. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1937?-1946  
4a. 'Dummy' catalog, 1939  
5. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1947-1950  
6. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1951-1954  
7. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1955-1957  
8. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1958-1959  
9. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1960-1961  
10. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1962-1964  
11. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1965-1968  
12. Price lists, catalogs, circulars, 1970-1972  
13. Price list, undated

**Box 3****Business Records (cont.): Folders 1-12**



- Folder: 1. 'ANAC Retail shops, Alaska & "48"'
2. Craft lore, stories, and particulars
  3. 'Crafts People' - listed alphabetically by town
  4. Crafts people listed alphabetically, various lists, handwritten
  5. Crafts people listed by town
  6. Crafts people, Eskimo
  7. Crafts people, deceased, listed alphabetically, handwritten
  8. 'Active Sewers List' and lists of artisans by craft, on 5 x 8 cards
  9. Various lists of crafts people
  10. Biographical information on artisans, arranged alphabetically; several lists of artisans also
  11. 'Vital Statistics' of artisans
  12. Examples of labels, tags, signs, and other ANAC paraphernalia

**Publications: Folders 13-18**

- Folder: 13. Publications by ANAC
14. Clippings about ANAC, arranged chronologically
  - 15-18. Non-ANAC catalogs, ads, business cards

**Miscellaneous: Folders 19-22**

- Folder: 19. 'Falsifications' - articles, clippings, legislation addressing concerns about imitation native crafts, 1941-1987
20. 'Falsifications' - articles, clippings, undated; photographs
  21. ANICA, includes clippings about controversy between ANICA and ANS, 1954
  22. Alaskan Arts and Crafts Association (Juneau) - bulletins, programs
  23. Index to card files (boxes 8-12): "Southeast Alaska Artists in the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Clearinghouse/Cooperative, 1947-1974"
- Disk containing index (above). *For ANAC artists, craftspersons, and retail outlets card files, see boxes 8-12 (listed on p. 12).*

**Box 4**

**Correspondence: Folders 1-4**

- Folder: 1. Correspondence, received, arranged alphabetically, by correspondent, A-P
2. Correspondence, received, arranged alphabetically, by correspondent, R-W
  3. Correspondence received, no surname, arranged chronologically by correspondent
  4. Personal Correspondence, Peter and Theresa Mayac & family, 16 color photographs, various sizes:

Teddy  
 George  
 Mary-Suflu-Dillard (Mrs. Roy)  
 [Denise Dillard]  
 Aloysius  
 Joseph  
 Raymond  
 Roseanne  
 Rita Maria  
 Lucy June

[See folder for family photos and complete list of names and biographical information written by Mary Mayac. Processing note: photos placed in mylar, and kept in order]

Mayac Family. Photos of members of the Peter Mayac Family to Ethel Montgomery. Two envelopes: "First Day of Issue, Jan 3. 1959."

**Memorabilia: Folders 5-7**

- Folder: 5. Programs, bulletins, invitations, arranged chronologically  
 Programs, bulletins, invitations, undated
6. Mementos including Juneau Alaska Centennial badge, Alaska Statehood commemorative stamp, Pioneers of Alaska name tag, Cheechako Bucks (Black Diamond Certificate), and a welcome to statehood proclamation from the state of Louisiana; "Shank, Ship & Shutter Club" publications and badges were transferred to MS 130
7. Lists: enlisted Coast Guard wives at "Buoy Deck" and an untitled list of local names and telephone numbers

**Docent Files: Folders 8-13**

- Folder: 8. Guided tour notes
9. Alaska notes from various sources; includes bibliographies
10. Alaska notes by Ethel Montgomery
11. Exhibits and lectures
12. Posters, announcements, and other graphics by Alaska artists
13. Miscellaneous items including a map - "North Pacific Coast - Linguistic Divisions," press release, petition, student list, and hymn in Tlingit with English translation

**Other Volunteer Activities: Folders 14-17a**

- Folder:14. Talks, articles by Ethel Montgomery, chronological order, undated at back; some drafts included with final copy

15. Interviews with Natives, in alphabetical order
16. Subsistence and food information
17. Government Hospital, TB ward, Juneau (1950's)
- 17a. 'Hospital letters,' in chronological order; undated letters at back

**Box 5****Theatre: Folders 1-3**

- Folder: 1. Programs, scripts, cast lists, poetry (includes script for *Hoochinoo 'n Hotcakes* by Carol Eastaugh)
2. *Devil Bear*, original screenplay by Chuck D. Keen and Brian Russell; autographed copy
  3. Clippings on Chuck Keen productions - *Claws*, *Catch the Wind*

**Montgomery Family Memorabilia: Folders 4-7**

- Folder: 4. Guest book #2, 6/26/55-2/17/62; includes memorabilia, clippings
5. Heen-Ku-Hit Guest Book #3, 3/1/55-1/1/65; includes clippings, correspondence, memorabilia
  6. Guest lists, 1965
  7. Ivil J. (husband); Jean [Berg] (daughter) - club cards, correspondence, map

**Song Books and Song Sheets Folder 8**

- Folder: 8. Handwritten lyrics to songs, including some Alaskan  
*Salute to the Ice Cube State*, by J. Ellsworth McCarthy  
 Song sheets from the Red Dog Saloon (Juneau) -- 2 versions  
*Sourdough Songs of the Alaska Native Service Teachers*  
*Songs of the Totem*, compiled by Carol Beery Davis  
*Alaskan Songs & Ballads*, by Harold Salisbury  
*Our Northwest Sings!*

**Sheet Music Folder 9**

- Folder: 9. "Alaska and the USA" by Anna E. Snow  
 "Alaska and You" by Frances G. Mangan  
 "Alaska I Love You" by Frances G. Mangan  
 "Alaska My Homeland" by Mildred Risvold  
 "Alaskan Twilight" by Jean Sarola  
 "Alaska's Flag" by Marie Drake (lyrics) and Elinor Dusenbury (music) -- 2 copies, 1940 and 1960  
 "The 49th Star in Old Glory" by Frances G. Mangan  
 "Home by the Bering Sea" by Bob Stevens (lyrics) and Henry Shavings (music) -- 2 copies

"The Ice Worm Wiggle" by Carol Beery-Davis  
"Northern Lights" by Carol Beery-Davis  
"Song of the Sourdoughs" by Elizabeth Barnet

**Box 6****Miscellaneous**

Political poster, Wien Alaska Airlines certificates for crossing the Arctic Circle,  
pencil drawings, labels, map of Camp McCrae (1949)  
Typescript copy of manuscript: *Spruce Root Basketry of the Tlingits of Southeastern  
Alaska* by Frances L. Paul and letter to Virgil Farrell regarding manuscript  
Folder of clippings concerning Chuck Keen's tramway project  
Publications (Accession # 2002-12, added 6/5/02) – these publications were kept  
because they contained personal notes or marginalia  
*The Ballad of Joe Juneau*  
*The American Indian: a Portrait in Limbo*  
*Alaska Educational Directory, School Year 1962-1963*  
*Navajo Native Dyes: Their Preparation and Use*  
*Talkeetna Cronies*

**Box 7****Sound Recordings**

45 rpm:

- (1) "Timber Tramp" and (2) "Loggers Prayer" by Claude Akins (2) - produced by  
Chuck D. Keen [label says 33 1/3] - 2 copies
- (1) "Shackles" and (2) "When the Ice Worms Nest Again" by Montana Slim
- (1) "Alaska's Flag" and (2) "Alaska" - 3 copies
- (1) "The Cool Alaska Rock & Roll," Part I and (2) "The Cool Alaska Rock & Roll,"  
Part II
- (1) "Some Night in Alaska" and (2) "Black Denim Trousers" and "Motorcycle Boots"

78 rpm:

Radio interview [Ivil or Ethel?], Fourth of July, 1954  
(1) Fourth of July, 1954 and (2) Elks Flag Day, 1954

33 1/3 rpm:

"It's Alaska," featuring Harry Simeone Chorale, music composed by Elizabeth  
Firestone Wills; "13 original songs of exciting Alaska -- America's last frontier"

**ANAC Card File -- continues Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc.  
(ANAC), Box 3, Miscellaneous (p. 9):**

**Box 8**        Eskimo, A-K

**Box 9**        Eskimo, L-Z

**Box 10**    Indian, A-M

**Box 11**    Indian, N-Z

**Box 12**    Deceased, A-Z  
              ANAC Retail Outlets

**Additional boxes in backlog (Hollinger boxes house original boxes):**

**Box 1**

Russian Orthodox Church Jubilee metal, AK Dr.s license wallet (empty),

Eskimo, Carpenter, et al. Toronto Press: 1959.

Box 1 contents: (On box, written: "1964 Hospital Man of the Year."): Clippings and publications about AK history and Southeast in particular, including public works report signed by Amos Alter, military impact on Fairbanks report

Box 2: Publication: Home Tanning of leather and small fur skins, U.S. Dept. of Ag.

Clippings: Recipes from local paper, mostly Best Cook of the Week series, c. 1960-1980?

Box 3: Clippings—disorganized, needs conservation , ca. 1960s-1970s

**Box 2:**

Box 1: Clippings: "ANAC legends" Alaska Native artists

Box 2: Clippings: "Alaska Indians [sic] and Artists"

Box 3: Clippings: "Indians, 1977. General"

**Box 3:**

Box 1: Clippings:

Box 2: Clippings:

Box 3: Clippings:

**Box 4:**

ANAC sales publications: catalogs, descriptive flyers and brochures

**Box 5:**

Loose clippings related to Alaska Natives, women's history, artifacts findings, Russian Orthodox Church, AK history

Box: Clippings: "Indian Artists"

**Box 6:**

Box 1: Clippings: "Eskimo Artists"

Box 2: Clippings: disorganized, needs conservation, ca. 1970s

Box 3: Clippings—"Geneology"—AK settlers?

**Box 7:**

Box 1: Clippings: recipes "Best Cook of the Week"

Howard Weyahok portrait, framed 5x7

Folder: Clippings and notes about Tlingit

Box: Clippings and papers: Artists, culture, history, mostly regarding AK Native, Sheldon Jackson College, Tlingit Exhibits

**Box 8**

Folder 1: "Alaska Examiner—Ketchikan"

Folder 2: "Stroller White"—'The Stroller'

Folder 3: "Alaska Featured Articles"

Folder 4: "Alaska Purchase Centennial"

Folder 5: "Ernest Greuning"

Folder 6: "Centennial Art"

Folder 7: Benny Benson

**Box 9: Clippings**

Folder categories:

People, Villages, Towns, Cities, Animals, Postcards, General Alaska, Statehood

Folders:

Athabaskans

Aleuts

Obituaries

John Spickett

Anaktuvik Pass

Anchorage

Bethel Area

Barrow, barter Islands

Cape of Prince of Wales

Juneau

Juneau Organizations

King Island, Nome  
Kotzebue  
Little Diomed  
Manolsotak, Arctic Village, etc.  
Russian and Japanese  
St. Lawrence Is.  
Seward, Tyonek  
Shishmaref  
Sitka  
Sitka, SE Misc.  
Skagway  
Tatitlek  
Nelson Island  
Unalakleet  
Yukon  
Animals—several folders  
Postcards  
Around Alaska  
Statehood